



Organisation Name	Community Centre, Studley Green
Project Name	Solar Panels for the Community Centre
Funding Stream	Local Infrastructure
Total Cost of project	£9,000
Amount of Match Funding	£2,000
Amount being applied for	£7,000
Amount suggested	£7,000

## Project Summary

### Scope and what it aims to achieve:

The Community Centre want to contribute to reducing global emissions, and lead the rest of the community by example, by installing 30 solar panels on the south facing roof of their community centre alongside a scheme for EV charging and heat pumps. This will enable the community to generate its own electricity whilst the hall is used and provide the national grid with any excess electricity.

### The need for this project:

It is understood that global emissions need to be reduced by 50% within 20 years to prevent irrevocable climate change.

### Who will benefit from the project?

The community centre, which serves the needs of the community, provides a resource for a diversity of activities such as AA, a crochet group, yoga, art groups, a toddler group, a youth club, Christian fellowship, aircraft modelling. If they can reduce their costs, this will allow these resources to be accessed for cheaper rents. If they can contribute to reducing carbon emissions, then everyone benefits.

It should also be noted there is a planned housing growth in the neighbouring areas, so users of the facility may well increase due to new families moving nearby.

## How does the project address local priorities?

The Community Board agreed its priorities on 9 July which included a priority for **Environmental and Climate Change**.

This project will contribute towards the subgroups objective in seeking schemes and initiatives that have a sustainable and lasting effect on the North West Chilterns area, improving the built or rural environment and promoting or reversing environmental damage or climate change.

In addition, reducing carbon emissions improves overall health. The environment is improved by reducing carbon emissions, which are contributing to the warming of our planet and endangering whole low-lying communities and making many species extinct due to global warming. The green economy is considered key to regenerative projects.

## How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

This project seeks to achieve the corporate priority around **Improving our Environment, Protecting the Vulnerable and Increasing Prosperity**.

**Improving our environment:** This is the main strength of the project. If the community centre can use carbon free electricity, they are contributing to reducing carbon emissions. This is a national and global priority for the good of our planet and are contributing to preventing a rise in temperature and to the national and global effort to bring carbon emissions under control.

**Protecting the vulnerable:** By not emitting harmful carbons, health is improved, rates of asthma and other breathing difficulties are reduced.

**Increasing prosperity:** By providing free electricity, generated by the power of the sun, the running costs of the community centre are decreased.

## How does the project achieve value for money?

The total cost of this project is £9,000. The Community Centre will contribute £2,000 through various funding sources and the remaining £7,000 from the Community Board.

The benefits of installing solar panels on the roof of the centre has in itself many rewards and are detailed within this report. Contributing to reducing carbon emissions strongly ties in with the subgroup's and corporate priorities and links with national and global efforts to bring this under control.

In addition to this project application, the Community Centre are working with Buckinghamshire Community Energy in delivering not only the solar panels, but also electric vehicle charging and heat pumps. This is a really ambitious project which the Community Board fully supports and would like to be associated with.

## Community Board Coordinator comments

This application has been fully assessed by the Environmental and Climate Change subgroup in line with the Community Board funding criteria, and based on this and the evidence above, it is recommended as a project which is suitable to receive funding from the North West Chilterns Community Board.

The funding applied for in this report (£7,000) can be accommodated within the North West Chilterns Community Board 2020/21 budget available. This takes into account monies already spent to date and also monies committed to projects formally approved by the Board, but not yet spent.

**The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.**